

Remarks:

Claims 25 and 26, presented hereby, are pending.

Claim 17-24 are canceled hereby, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 25 and 26 correspond to claims 21 and 22, written independently of the rejected claims in the application. Claim 25 corresponds to process claim 21, rewritten as an independent claim, i.e., by incorporating claim 17, on which it is dependent. Claim 26 corresponds to claim 22, rewritten to be dependent on claim 25.

Claims 21 and 22 were found allowable by the examiner, if written independently of the rejected claims. Since present claims 25 and 26 represent claims 21 and 22 written independently of the rejected claims, present claims 25 and 26 are allowable.

The rejections under 35 USC 103(a) against claims 17-20, 23, and 24 are rendered moot by canceling, hereby, the rejected claims.

Accordingly, all issues of record being resolved, the subject application is in immediate form for allowance.

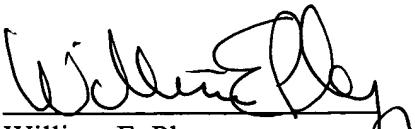
Attorney Docket No. P67341US0
Application No.: 09/926,589

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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